



Terrific TAG News

Principal's Greetings.....



Dear High Bridge Families,

Seasons Greetings to you All! Can you believe we are at the end of 2022! The time is certainly moving forward rather quickly. November was full of activities and December is no exception! First Quarter Report Cards went home on the 16th. We also are having our Winter Fundraiser at Chick fil A (Marketplace Mall) before the Winter Break.

As we travel through December and embark on the holidays, let us not forget that we have three weeks to focus on academically. As you read throughout this newsletter our teachers continue to stay committed to the goal at hand: preparing your child to be College and Career ready, life-long learners and well rounded citizens. Speaking of giving, a big thank you goes to Mrs. Hamolia and the Fifth Grade students for spearheading our Canned and Non-Perishable Food Drive campaign. The school collected over 800 canned and non perishable goods going to The Bowie Food Pantry. Even the staff helped contribute as well! Thank you parents for your support.

As a safety precaution, once the 7:45a.m. bell rings, and the outside staff have vacated the front, your child is considered late. With that being said, parents, and guardians, you must get out of your cars and escort them inside the building safely. Often times I witness some of you drop off your child and drive off not knowing whether they made it into the building safely or not. Please make sure you escort your children inside of the school building. There are some strange and crazy things happening in the world. Let's do our part to ensure your child's safety!

On another note, if you are not aware, the Winter Packet will be available on line. To access your child's grade level, go to www.pgcps.org. Remember this packet is non mandatory, however teacher's are suggesting that your child use this as extra credit or just simply practice as well.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday as you spend time with your family and friends! See you in 2023! As always, thank you for your support to High Bridge Elementary School and Happy Holidays! ~ William J. Kelly Ed. D.

High Bridge December Tips.....

Tip #1 – Maintaining Routines During This Busy Season

This is always a busy time of the year with various school activities, family events, winter break, holidays, and more! Please remind your child to stay focused on his/her learning and the expectations from school. Sometimes a change in the routines can affect his/her amount of sleep, homework performance, classwork performance and participation, and overall behavior. We want everyone to enjoy this time of the year. However, with so many days of vacation, we have a limited time to accomplish a lot of learning. We want everyone to enjoy the season, but try to keep your child's routines as normal as possible. During the winter break, make sure to have a fun, restful break and continue to read with your child and/or have him/her read books and magazines and work on his/her basic math facts. As we continue to work on our writing as a school, encourage your child to write about the winter season, the winter break, a book he/she has recently read or something special related to this time of the year. We have many artists in our school, so drawing a picture to accompany your child's writing is always a nice addition. Coming back to school from busy weekends can be an adjustment for children on Mondays, so it's important to make sure that they have adequate rest the night before they return and talk with them extensively to help them prepare for the school week ahead of them. This will be even more important when preparing them to return from their winter break! Enjoy the winter break and we look forward to an even more productive and successful 2022!

Tip #2 – High Bridge is Healthy School!

With all of the physical and mental demands our children experience on a daily basis at school, in extracurricular activities and at home, it's is so important to support a healthy lifestyle through diet and exercise. Many of us have such busy schedules that we are often eating out and on the run, which is not always the healthiest. To remind everyone – High Bridge is a Healthy School! This means that we support healthy eating, drinking, as well as physical activity throughout the school day. Although we work hard to provide this healthy environment at school, we hope that you can continue to encourage this with your child/children at home. What are his/her favorite fruits and vegetables? What are some new and fun ways to prepare those foods? What are some new healthy foods that you can try as a family? What are some outdoor, and now that it's getting cold, indoor exercises/physical activities that you can experience and enjoy as a family? Is he/she drinking plenty of water every day? To learn more about High Bridge as a Healthy School, check out our school website homepage and to read more information from the school system, go to PGCPS.org → Food and Nutrition Services → Health and Wellness. Let's make this our focus now as a school and not a New Year's resolution next month! Together, home and school, we can foster this healthy lifestyle now to last a lifetime!

Kindergarten Highlights!!!!

Hello and Happy Holidays, if you choose to celebrate them, from the Kindergarten Team. December has arrived and with it has come more opportunities for our Kindergarteners to flex those growing brain muscles. In Reading we will continue to learn about story parts, practice retelling and sequencing, and dive deeper into reading comprehension. We will also work hard on our writing as we begin to put words into sentences and sound out words on our own using phonetic spelling. Parents please read nightly with your students. It's a small thing that helps a great deal. In Math we will be returning to the topic of 2-dimensional shapes, but this time we'll be composing them. We'll also officially start to practice addition and learn to identify addition situations. In Social Studies we will continue to focus on family and culture. We'll then explore how family and culture are related to history. In Science we will continue the Earth and Space Science unit and focus on weather patterns and predictions, the seasons, and forecasting tools. The winter break is quickly approaching. Please consider working on the Winter Enrichment Packets with them to keep them thinking and learning. As always, thank you so much for your continued support.

Fabulous First Grade!

First grade is ready for a wonderful, winter season of learning! This month, we will practice writing personal narratives about our cultures and events in our lives. We will learn to use the writing process and continue our focus with sentence structure, punctuation, and meaning in writing. In math, we will continue practicing addition and subtraction strategies for tens and ones and listening to word problems to determine the question (Is it addition or subtraction and why?) Work at home with math facts up to 20 and watch your child's math skills improve! In social studies, we will continue learning about cultures, traditions, holidays around the world, and compare them to the technology we have today. In science, we will continue learning about light energy, the solar system, and how animals survive in winter. Please remember that homework reinforces our lessons at school and will help your child prepare each day for learning new material. Your child's participation with their reading log, sight word practice, use of Canvas activities will also help them grow and learn. Keep up the great practice and read every day with your child! We appreciate all of your hard work and dedication at home! Stay safe and blessings for a wonderful winter season.

Second Grade News!!!

Happy Holidays from Second Grade!

The school year continues to fly by so quickly! It is amazing to see how the students are growing and learning.

In Language Arts, this month, we are continuing Module 2: Look Around and Explore! Our Essential Question for this module is: How does exploring help us understand the world around us? We are learning many exciting things. Students are learning about Author's Purpose, making inferences, and connecting text and visuals. They will also learn about synonyms, plural nouns, and using -ed, and -ing.

During December, we are learning about culture, celebrations, and traditions in Social Studies. We are discovering many interesting things about our own culture and the cultures of our world.

In Science, we are continuing our study of how the surface of the earth changes in quick and slow ways. We are learning many things about the different forces of nature, such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and floods.

This month, in Math, we will finish our unit on two-digit addition. Then we will begin a new unit on the topic of time. The students will learn about how to read both digital and analog clocks, and about the concepts of AM and PM.

As we end the year 2022, we wish you joy, peace, and love!



Tis the season to be reading Informational text! Cozy up to nonfiction books from How Snowflakes are Formed, to Snowstorms and Blizzards, to How to Bake the Best Holiday Cookies Ever! Informational text provide a wonderland real facts and details. Text features help readers understand the visuals in informational text. The main text features are titles, headings, sub-headings, highlighted bold-face vocabulary, photos, illustrations and captions. Students will use accountable talk opportunities to formulate informational essays and persuasive essays using text based evidence. Weekly Reading logs due every Friday. We have three third grade classrooms. Volunteers are needed for the Winter Holiday Bash. During the month of December, in math class we will be finishing up the unit 3.4 2-D figures and moving on to the next unit 3.5 Expanding Multiplication. In unit 3.5 Expanding multiplication students will use the properties of operations and patterns in multiplication as strategies to efficiently multiply numbers. First students will use the distributive and associative properties to determine unknown multiplication facts using arrays and the multiplication chart. Then students will explore patterns that appear when multiplying with a focus on zero and odd/even numbers. Finally, students will use the associative property in problem contexts to multiply three numbers in varying orders. Students decompose and rearrange the order of factors in order to more efficiently multiply numbers. Third Grade Science will finish exploring concepts with force and motion. We will do a variety of investigative experiments with the cause and effect of motion as well discovering the difference between a push and pull balance and unbalanced motion. In Social Studies, students will collect and examine information about people, places, or events of the past using text features such as: pictures, photos, illustrations, maps, along with audio or visual recordings and documents. Students will compare life to today with life in the past.

Fourth Grade Happenings!!!!

The Fourth Grade Class is engaged in rigorous but stimulating activities as we approach the winter break. In **ELA**, our class is building our knowledge about traditional stories, with a focus on story genres, such as tall tales, trickster tales, and legends. We are reading texts and viewing videos about what lessons we can learn from characters in traditional tales. Students will also write a trickster tale for an imaginary class story-hour podcast. Students are learning how self-reflecting allows us to catch mistakes and fix them and think about how to improve our work next time. Encourage self-reflection at home by asking your child questions such as: "What could you do better the next time you . . . ?" Or "How have you made progress in . . . ?" In **Social Studies**, we are beginning to explore the history of Maryland. In our first series of lessons, we learned about Native American tribes native to our area. Students will begin to learn about colonial life in December. In **Math**, students are learning to solve multi-step word problems using all four operations. In Unit 3, we will review previously taught concepts then apply the information to problem solving models. Our fluency goal is to increase automaticity with multiplication and division. Please remember to complete the Math Fluency forms in Multiplication skills as well. If those are mastered, use the time to work on activities to solve word problems. In **Science** we have begun our unit Landforms (mountain layers, body of water impacts, and erosion) Heath is exploring our digestive system and how certain food and activities keep us healthy.

Fifth Grade News Flash!!!!!!

December is here and 5th grade students are continuing to work hard and be present for learning. As we move into the middle of the second quarter, students should be taking time each week to review assignments and check grades in Schoolmax to stay on top of graded tasks. It's a great opportunity to assist your student with learning how to access Schoolmax to help them self-monitor work and due dates. This is an important skill for students to acquire as they move into middle school. As teachers, we are finding that some students are still struggling to complete independent assignments.

As we look ahead at the upcoming curriculum skills students will work through cycles 1 and 2 of unit 2 which will introduce them to the genre of mystery. We will investigate the essential question, "What makes something mysterious, and what makes people want to solve mysteries?" We will emphasize the skills of making and confirming predictions, character development in stories, author's craft, figurative language, and making inferences with both fiction and nonfiction texts. In social studies, students are learning to analyze primary and secondary sources using an online database to complete "DBQ" questions, or document-based questions.

For math in December, students will focus on adding and subtracting fractions and the multiplication of decimals by whole numbers, and then division of decimals by whole numbers. These computations are investigated using concrete models, calculators, and drawings, and arise from a variety of problem situations. The unit emphasizes estimation and understanding of place value in order to determine placement of the decimal point. A special focus is multiplication and division by powers of 10. In science, students will investigate Earth systems relationships and the interactions within different biomes. Students will also explore and quantify the amount of available freshwater on our planet. As the month December comes to a close, our 5th grade team wants to extend warm wishes and happy holidays to your families and we look forward to seeing you all in 2023!

Hello parents/Guardians!



The Music Notes Newsletter will update you on musical happenings during the current month in all General and Special Education Music classes.

Be sure to watch for additional notes in upcoming HBES Newsletters!

Musically yours,
Mrs. Clarke

Music Notes

The musical concepts that will be covered during the month of December for the following grades are:

5th Grade: Students will be able to:

- Define Descant Singing
- Recognize that traditional Chinese music uses string instruments.
- Define Sharp, Flat, and Natural.

4th Grade: Students will be able to:

- Describe a minor melody as sad, serious, or reflective and a major melody as happy, upbeat, or triumphant.
- Define Melodic Ostinato
- Identify and write whole, half, quarter, eighth notes and rests, and beamed sixteenth notes.

3rd Grade: Students will be able to:

- Name the lines and spaces of the treble clef staff.
- Perform a four measure improvisation using the extended pentatonic scale.
- Perform a four measure improvisation using the extended pentatonic scale.

A letter was sent home on November 28th with 3rd grade students requesting \$3 for their recorder payment. Please send the exact change (\$3) or a check made out to High Bridge Elementary School by December 9th.

**2nd Grade****Students will be able to:**

- Describe how meters help us count beats and play rhythms by organizing them into measures.
- Recognize that rhythm can be felt best when we sing, play instruments, or move to music with a steady beat.
- Improve over a simple ostinato within a song.

1st Grade**Students will be able to:**

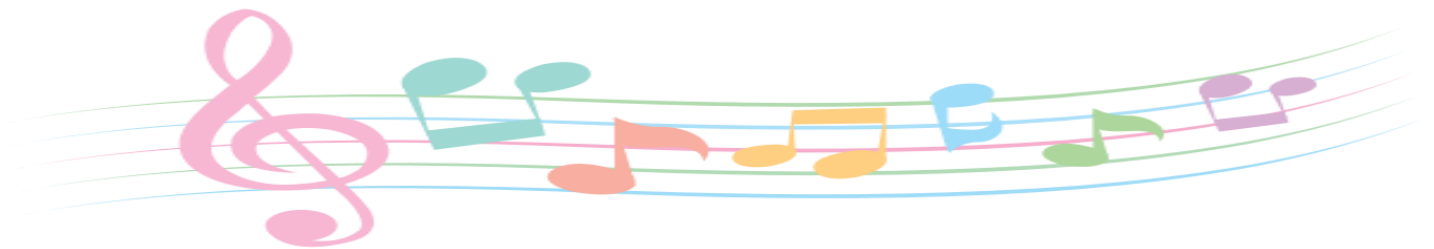
- Listen and imitate patterns on rhythm instruments.
- Create a rhythm pattern using graphic icons.
- Play a simple ostinato within a song.

Kindergarten**Students will be able to:**

- Move different ways to a steady beat.
- Identify same vs. different rhythm patterns in a game.
- Sing, play, and move to rhythm patterns.

Adaptive Music

Students in CSEP and CRI classes will learn many of the same concepts in ways that are meaningful to them. Students in CRI will do more movement activities and instrument playing.



Our program is a pull out TAG program. The students are joined with an instructor two hours per week for enrichment activities following the TAG curriculum. There will be guest speakers and field trips this year as well! Look for more news on our website and in newsletters to catch a glimpse of all the hard work these students are doing.

In our talented and gifted program the students are extending their knowledge in specific areas. The Primary students did experiments and built their first structure this week. They focused on considering how to build models with strength and stability in mind. Students also learned about the judicial branch of Government to prepare for a guest speaker. Each student prepared interview questions and had an opportunity to interview the visiting judge. Next month, they will learn about skyscrapers and complete an art project to demonstrate their learning.

In intermediate the students will explore the concept of “identity” to consider their own identity as well as the identity of others. Through self-awareness students will learn their strengths and limitations with a well-grounded sense of confidence, optimism, and a “growth mindset”. Students will understand the perspectives of others and empathize with them; with an emphasis on those from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Additionally, students will continue to explore how others perceive perseverance through multiple perspectives.

There will be testing this year for multiple grade levels to determine who else may be eligible for joining our program. Listed below are those dates per grade level. First graders have already taken the OLSAT test and results should be available late January/early February. The selected third graders have also taken the OLSAT test and results should be available late December/early January.

2nd grade (newly enrolled) OLSAT testing- 11/29/22 - 12/1/22

4th grade census CogAt testing- 12/12/22 - 12/15/22

5th grade newly enrolled CogAt testing- 12/12/22 - 12/15/22

Annual Vocabulary Parade





PGCPS

www.pgcps.org/highbridge
– A great place to find the school calendar, frequently asked questions, current events, and websites for enrichment and intervention!

Important Dates

To Remember:



**December 12-16, 2022
Scholastic Book Fair**



**December 22, 2022
Chick-fil-a Fundraiser
(11:00 a.m-8:00 p.m.)**



December 23, 2022

to

January 2, 2023

Winter Break



HAPPY

HOLIDAYS!!!!



HAPPY NEWYEAR!



**Counselors'
Corner.....**

Conflict is not always a bad thing. Help your students realize that conflict is a normal part of life. Conflict will appear at home and school. Teach your children not to be afraid of conflict. Teach them to resolve conflict in a constructive manner. Help them see the positive as-

pects of conflict. Conflicts teach us to:

Remain Calm In Difficult Situations; Find

Solutions To Grow; Force Positive

Change!

Thanks to Mr. Gayles, one of our grandparents who represented his church The Excel Church. They generously donated Thanksgiving dinners to some of our neediest children. Also during the season of giving Humble Servants Baptist Church donated 3 fifty dollar grocery gift cards to three of our displaced families as well.

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!**